Details of investments are not maintained Statewise or region-wise; but it may be mentioned that the NE Region and North Bihar are wholly covered by the N. E. and N. F. Railways.

(b) Eighth Five Year Plan has not been finalised.

Revamping and Reconstituting of the Minority Commission

37. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to revamp and re-constitute the Minorities Commission for the redressal of grievances of the minority and whether Government have identified these grievances;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the functioning of the Minorities Commission and whether the commission has been able to effectively function as an independent body; and

(c) whether the Commission has recommended time and again to accord constitutional status and what are the reasons for turning down these unanimous recommendations of the State and Central Minority Commissions functioning in this country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The matter is under review.

(c) Yes, Sir. The recommendation to accord constitutional/statutory status to the Minorities Commission is under consideration.

38. [*Transferred to the 27th December, 1989*].

Pilferage in Railways

39. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been large scale pilferages reported by various Railway Zones during the last one year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, zone-wise and period-wise; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to check increase in the number of pilferage during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The total number of cases of pilferages theft reported by zonal railways during the year 1988-89 were 26627 as compared to 30485 cases of 1987-88.

(c) However to further contain such crime, the following steps are being taken;

1. Escorting of trains carrying valuable consignments as far as possible.
2. Intensive beat patrolling in the yards and vulnerable sections.
3. Conducting raids on receivers of stolen Railway property and deployment of crime intelligence staff.

Disappearance of various Agricultural Products and Oil from the Market

40. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various agricultural products and oils have

disappeared from the market during the last one month;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to market the various agricultural proucts and oils through co-operative outlets and if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) There has been no report of disappearance of various agricultural products and oils from the market during the last one month. Occasional shortages may have been felt in certain pockets due to local factors.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) About 33,000 and 55,000 co-operative retail outlets in urban and rural areas respectively are functioning in the country which, besides handling in order commodities, also deal in various agricultural products and edible oils depending on local demand.

Direct Train Service between Varanasi and Kanyakumari

41. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that lakhs of Malayalees residing between Varanasi and Ittarsi have been agitating under the leadership of South Indian Welfare Movements for a direct train between Varanasi and Kanyakumari two sacred places in South and North of the country; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Demands were received in this regard.

(b) Varanasi-Tirupati Express was extended (on one day) to/from Cochin with effect from 1-11-1989.

Closing down of factories in various States

42. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of factories had been closed down in different States affecting a large number of employees and loss of production during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Based on the latest available information, a statement giving the number of factories which have been closed in different States and workers affected therein during the last three years is attached. (*See* Appendix CLII, Annexure No. 1) Information on production loss due to closure is not available.

(c) Rehabilitation packages in respect of potentially viable sick industrial units are drawn up by the banks and financial institutions concerned on a case to case basis in terms of guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India from time to time. Banks and financial institutions periodically review implementation of the rehabilitation packages by the management of sick industrial units and initiate corrective action where necessary.

In respect of units coming within the purview of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) is empowered to take necessary action for determination of preventive, ameliorative, remedical and other measures in respect of sick units and for expeditious enforcement of such measures including appropriate action against erring managements.

The Central Government also operates a Textile Rehabilitation Fund